

Rooms were opened to the Club for an exhibition of fresh flowers and mounted specimens. After an informal social session a short business meeting was held and twelve new members were elected.

Wednesday forenoon, July 5, was spent partly on the Billings' estate in the inspection of the formal gardens, glass houses, wild fernery and nursery, and partly in botanizing on Mt. Tom. A bountiful lunch was served at the home of Prof. and Mrs. Frederic Lee.

In the afternoon a drive was taken to the Eshqua Bogs in Hartland. Here were fine specimens of *Lycopodium sabinaefolium* Willd. and *L. tristachyum* Pursh and some of the rarer orchids. Supper was served by the Hartland Nature Club at Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Morgan's home, "The Highlands." Afterwards a Life Membership Circle was formed with six members, which was later increased to eight. The proceeds from this are to form a fund for the Club.

In the evening a lecture was given in the Opera House on "Our Native Wild Flowers" by Dr. N. L. Britton, the noted botanist. This was splendidly illustrated by lantern slides from the Van Brunt collection.

Wednesday morning, July 6, a drive was taken to North Bridgewater to see the Male Fern, *Aspidium Filix-mas* (L.) Sw. This, the third station for this fern in the state was discovered by Miss Mabel A. Strong. Here was also collected a new hybrid *Aspidium*, *A. Filix-mas* × *marginale*.

The meeting was one of the most interesting the Club has had and the efforts of the resident members of the Botanical Club and the members of the Hartland Nature Club were appreciated.

The next meeting will be held at Burlington, Vt., in Jan., 1911.—
NELLIE F. FLYNN.

ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS OF THE UNITED STATES.¹—Forty or fifty years ago the limits between native vegetation on the one hand and flower beds, borders, and ornamental shrubbery on the other, were pretty sharp and definite. The whole trend of modern horticulture and landscape gardening, however, has been to efface these boundaries as completely as possible, to do away with the formal flower bed,

¹ Ornamental Shrubs of the United States (hardy, cultivated), a posthumous work by the late Professor Austin Craig Apgar, edited by his daughter Ada Apgar Draycott. Octavo, 352 pages, 4 plates, and 621 text figures. American Book Company, New York, etc. \$1.50.

straight rows of shade trees, and all such evidences of artificiality, to make the foreign plant, when used for ornament, appear to be in its natural environment, and to make it seem at home. As a consequence of these more artistic ideals of the landscape architect it is becoming more and more difficult for the young botanist to distinguish between plants which are native or naturalized and those which, along parkways, roadsides, etc.,—the only botanizing grounds readily accessible to many city-dwellers—have been set out for ornamental purposes. Few persons, beginning the study of botany, escape the perplexing experience of trying in vain to identify some exotic plant by a local manual under the impression that it must be a native. Finally, after prolonged and vexatious search, the plant is referred to some person of greater botanical experience, who with mortifying superiority pronounces it a foreigner and of course not to be looked for in the manual. Then inevitably comes the question we all have been asked: "But where can I get an inexpensive book that covers the foreign plants as well as the native ones? I mean a book with lots of illustrations, and with keys based on the leaves and color of the flowers and that sort of thing, not on those miserable placentas and arils and hypochils and all those little affairs that nobody can see—and, oh yes, the book must be in English, too." To this hitherto well nigh unanswerable question, at least a partial reply may now be given. "If you are studying the shrubs you will find that Professor Apgar's book fairly realizes your ideals."—B. L. R.

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